On receipt of the proposals, complete in all respect, they are scrutinized as per guidelines and are processed on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Execution and implementation of the projects santioned by Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government. Funds released as on date for the last three years to Chattisgarh are as under:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Sanctioned amount	Released amount
2002-03	308.00	249.59
2003-04	1005.00	389.40
2004-05	1117.94	884.85

Development of infrastructure for adventure tourism

2247. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adventure tourism is fast picking up in our country and would be one of the biggest foreign exchange earner in times to come;

(b) the present status of this industry and what is the action plan of Government to develop the required infrastructure, as India is a perfect playing ground for a host of adventure sports like white water river rafting, paragliding, hot air ballooning, skiing, mountain biking etc; and

(c) the position of Orissa in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territories for the development and promotion of tourism projects including adventure tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities, Assistance is given to State/UT's to enable them to put up infrastructural facilities and procurement of equipment for activities such as white water river rafting,

paragliding, hot air ballooning, skiing, mountain biking etc. Most of the States have identified locations for development of Adventure tourism depending upon their natural wealth. The Himalayan States, Coastal areas, Hilly areas, Deserts of Rajasthan, Desert of Ladakh, National Parks and Sanctuaries are some of the potential areas for development of Adventure tourism. The New National Tourism Policy acknowledges the critical role of the private sector with Government, working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst for development of tourism including adventure tourism.

Development of historical and mythological places in Buxar

†2248. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently sanctioned some funds for the development of infrastructural facilities in Buxar town of Bihar in view of its historical and mythological importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the scheme of Government to attract tourists at Buxar in view of its immense tourism possibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Development and improvement of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UTs. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs including Bihar for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year under the following schemes:—

1. Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits

2. Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development

3. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

Ministry of Tourism is also promoting the places of tourist interests/ spots through its 20 India tourism officers located in India, 13 abroad and through the 'Incredible India' campaign as well as publicity through print and electronic media etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.